



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EAGLE PASS, TEXAS DOCTOR CHARGED WITH MEDICAID FRAUD

U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that Dr. Paul Harris (a.k.a. Harish Prafulchandra Patel), owner of Women and Family Care Clinics in Eagle Pass, Texas, was arrested today in Houston, Texas, by agents with the Federal Bureau of Investigation on charges of defrauding Medicaid of approximately \$304,798.

A 70-count federal grand jury indictment alleges that from September 19, 1997 to July 25, 2000, the defendant orchestrated a scheme to fraudulently bill Medicaid for reimbursement expenses. In all, he is charged with one count of conspiracy, one count of misbranding a drug, 45 counts of health care fraud, 13 counts of making false statements with respect to health care matters and ten counts of mail fraud.

The indictment further alleges that the doctor's scheme included: 1) falsifying medical records in order to support medical reimbursement claims; 2) causing employees to purchase prescription drugs, including "Depo-Provera," a contraceptive drug, from discount pharmacies in Mexico, smuggle them into the United States, then administer them to his Medicaid patients while billing Medicaid for the drugs at full price; 3) performing incomplete examinations of patients while billing Medicaid for complete examinations; 4) mis-classifying a large percentage of patients as high risk in order to perform and bill Medicaid for numerous sonograms; and 5) performing trans-abdominal sonograms while billing Medicaid for trans-vaginal sonograms.

The defendant had his initial appearance in Houston before U.S. Magistrate Judge Marcia A. Crone. Bond was set at \$100,000.

This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, U.S. Food and Drug Administration - Criminal Investigation and Texas Attorney General's Medicaid Fraud Unit. Assistant United States Attorney John Peralta is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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